# CCRB INVESTIGATIVE RECOMMENDATION

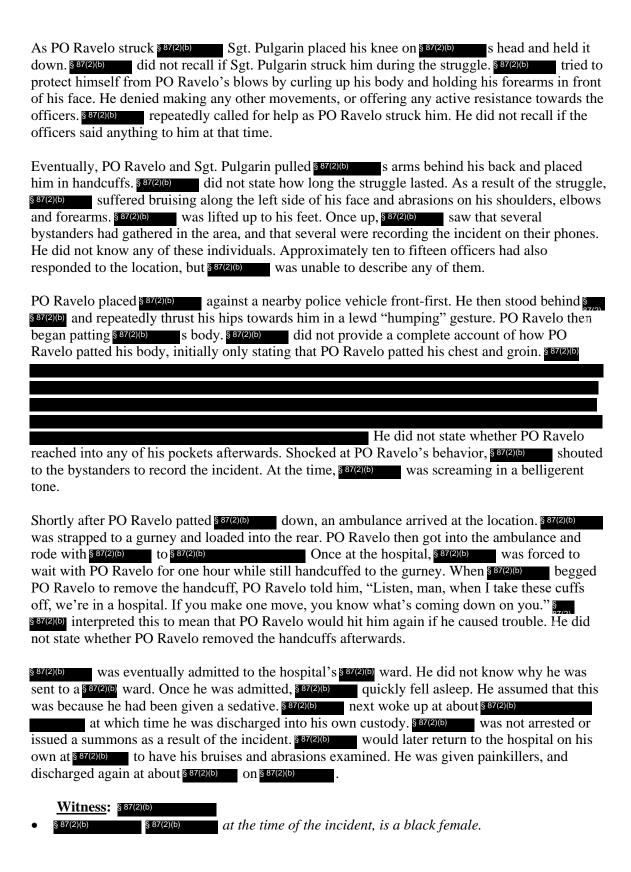
Investigator:		Team:	CCRB Case #:	<b>▼</b> Fo	orce	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$	Discourt.		U.S.
Owen Godshall		Team # 6	201405321	☑ A	buse		O.L.		Injury
Incident Date(s)		Location of Incident	 :	Pre	cinct:	18	Mo. SOL	E	EO SOL
Friday, 05/30/2014 2:00 PM		§ 87(2)(b)	and at § 87(2)	,	47	11	/30/2015	11	/30/2015
Date/Time CV Reported		CV Reported At:	How CV Reported	1: D:	ate/Time	Rece	eived at CC	RB	
Mon, 06/02/2014 9:49 AM		CCRB	Phone	М	on, 06/0	2/201	4 9:49 AM	1	
Complainant/Victim	Type	Home Add	lress						
Witness(es)		Home Add	lress						
Subject Officer(s)	Shield	TaxID	Command						
1. POM Brandon Ravelo	26010	948409	047 PCT						
2. SGT Joe Pulgarin	00983	942914	047 PCT						
Officer(s)	Allegati	on			Inve	estiga	tor Recor	nme	ndation
A.SGT Joe Pulgarin		At <sup>§ 87(2)(b)</sup> stopped <sup>§ 87(2)(b)</sup>	in the Bronx, Sgt	Joe					
B.POM Brandon Ravelo		At <sup>§ 87(2)(b)</sup> topped <sup>§ 87(2)(b)</sup>	in the Bronx, PO E	Brandon					
C.POM Brandon Ravelo	Force: A Ravelo i	t <sup>§ 87(2)(b)</sup> ised physical force aga	in the Bronx, PO Brainst § 87(2)(b)	randon					
D.POM Brandon Ravelo	Force: A Ravelo s		in the Bronx, PO Bowith an asp.	randon					
E.POM Brandon Ravelo		esy: At § 87(2)(b) Ravelo acted discourt	in the Bronx, teously toward § 87(2)(b)						
F.POM Brandon Ravelo		At <sup>§ 87(2)(b)</sup> hreatened <sup>§ 87(2)(b)</sup>	in the Bronx, PO with the use of for		n				

## **Case Summary**

On June 2, 2014, \$87(2)(b) filed this complaint with the CCRB via telephone.
At approximately 2:00 p.m. on May 30, 2014, \$87(2)(b) was taken into custody as an emotionally disturbed person (EDP) by Sgt. Joe Pulgarin and PO Brandon Ravelo of the 47 <sup>th</sup> Precinct in front of \$87(2)(b) in the Bronx. The following allegations resulted:
<ul> <li>Allegation A: Abuse of Authority – At \$87(2)(b)</li> <li>Allegation B: Abuse of Authority – At \$87(2)(b)</li> <li>Brandon Ravelo stopped \$87(2)(b)</li> <li>\$87(2)(c)</li> <li>\$87(2)(c)</li> <li>\$87(2)(c)</li> <li>\$87(2)(c)</li> <li>in the Bronx, PO</li> </ul> • Allegation C: Force – At \$87(2)(b) in the Bronx, PO Brandon Ravelo used physical force against \$87(2)(b)
• Allegation D: Force — At \$87(2)(b) struck \$87(2)(b) with an asp.  • Allegation E: Discourtesy — At \$87(2)(b) in the Bronx, PO Brandon Ravelo acted discourteously towards \$87(2)(b) \$87(2)(g)  • Allegation F: Abuse of Authority — At \$87(2)(b) in the Bronx, PO Brandon Ravelo threatened \$87(2)(b) with the use of force.  \$87(2)(g)
s case could not be mediated since he alleged that an officer used an asp against hin  Results of Investigation
Civilian Statement(s)  Complainant/Victim: \$87(2)(0)  at the time of the incident, is a 6'2", 200-pound black male with black hair and brown eyes. \$87(2)(b)  .
Statements to Medical Providers
by the NYPD and was admitted to the hospital'  s87(2)(b)  on \$87(2)(b)  discharged on the morning of \$87(2)(b)  history of psychiatric illness, or taking any controlled substances. He denied wielding a knife o

threatening anybody prior to his admission. [87(2)(b) did state, though, that he carries a small pocket knife for use at work. \$87(2)(b) alleged that the police had punched him and slammed him into the ground before he was admitted. He made no mention of being struck with an asp (Encl. 9A). **Notice of Claim** filed a notice of claim with the Comptroller's office on §87(2)(b) **CCRB Testimony** was interviewed at the CCRB on June 6, 2014 (Encl. 5A-C). § 87(2)(9) (Encl. 4A-B). During the interview, \$87(2)(b) was extremely agitated and uncooperative. \$87(2)(b) often ignored direct questions, and became angry when asked to elaborate on vague or incomplete answers, stating that merely discussing the incident greatly upset him. At approximately 2:00 p.m. on May 30, 2014, 337(2)(b) was walking home from a nearby store when he passed by \$87(2)(b) in the Bronx. He was by himself at the time. \$87(2)(b) was carrying a set of keys, a cell phone, his identification, a MetroCard, and a small Bible with him at the time. He made no mention of carrying a knife or box cutter at the time. As \$87(2)(b) he noticed a male, identified by the investigation only as "\$87(2)(b) sitting at the front of the house. The house was surrounded by a gated fence, \$87(2)(b) passed by the house without incident. He did not interact with to any way. He did not recall seeing any other individuals in the area at the time. Shortly after walking past the house, an unmarked blue sedan pulled up in front of [8] 87(2)(b) Two plainclothes officers, identified by the investigation as Sgt. Joe Pulgarin and PO Brandon Ravelo, exited the car. §87(2)(b) described PO Ravelo as a stocky 5'8" male in his twenties, and Sgt. Pulgarin as a 6' white male in his thirties. PO Ravelo had been driving. PO Ravelo immediately walked up to \$87(2)(b) and angrily asked him why he had been looking at John. As he spoke, he drew a can of pepper spray from his belt. He did not point the pepper spray at § 87(2)(b) or discharge it at any point. § 87(2)(b) speaking in a normal tone of voice, told PO Ravelo that he had not said or done anything to John. He then turned away and continued walking. In response, PO Ravelo drew his asp, and instructed §87(2)(6) to stop, provide identification, and put his hands "on the wall." § 87(2)(b) did not explain what wall PO Ravelo was referring to. Moments after issuing the command, however, PO Ravelo came up behind \$87(2)(b) and forcibly brought him to the ground. When initially asked how PO Ravelo had done this, stated that PO Ravelo had lifted him up and then "slammed" him down. When asked where on his body PO Ravelo had lifted him by, § 37(2)(b) did not answer, and instead simply repeated that PO Ravelo had "slammed" him down. fell to the ground, landing on his left side. PO Ravelo then leaned over [887(2)(b)] struck him repeatedly all over his body using both his fists and his asp. §87(2)(b) was unable to estimate how many times he was punched in total, but stated that PO Ravelo struck him four to five times with the asp. Several punches and at least one asp strike landed on [887(2)(b)]

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#### **Telephone Statement**

provided a telephone statement on June 12, 2014 (Encl. 6A-B). On May 30, 2014, s87(2)(b) was at her home at s87(2)(b) in the Bronx. s87(2)(b) and her family had hired an elderly male from their neighborhood, whom she could only identify as '\$87(2)(b) to make some repairs to the stairs in front of the house. s87(2)(b) was outside working.
At approximately 2:00 p.m., \$87(2)(b) heard a commotion outside the house. When she went outside, she saw two plainclothes officers, identified by the investigation as PO Brandon Ravelo and Sgt. Joe Pulgarin, struggling with a male, identified by the investigation as \$87(2)(b) was lying on the ground, while the two officers stood over him. PO Ravelo and Sgt. Pulgarin were trying to pull \$87(2)(b) s arms behind his back to apply handcuffs to him. \$87(2)(b) was cursing loudly at the officers. He also attempted to roll his body away from the officers and jerk his arms away from them. \$87(2)(b) did not see either officer punch \$87(2)(b) Neither officer either drew their asps or struck \$87(2)(b) with their asps. As \$87(2)(b) struggled on the ground, \$87(2)(b) noticed that he had several scrapes and bruises on his face and shoulders.
PO Ravelo and Sgt. Pulgarin struggled with \$87(2)(b) for approximately two or three minutes before they were able to handcuff him. A few minutes later, approximately twelve officers in both uniforms and plainclothes arrived at the location. The gathered officers then lifted \$87(2)(b) to his feet and placed him against the side of a police vehicle. PO Ravelo then frisked and searched emptying the contents of his pockets. Among the items found in his pockets was an orange box cutter. She did not see PO Ravelo or any of the other officers make any "humping" motions towards \$87(2)(b) No officer made any lewd or sexually suggestive gestures towards at any time.
After \$87(2)(b) was frisked and searched, an ambulance arrived at the location. \$87(2)(b) was loaded inside and taken away. Once the officers left the location, \$87(2) explained to \$87(2)(b) that \$87(2)(b) had come up to him and started shouting profanities at him for no apparent reason He had then threatened \$87(2) with the box cutter. PO Ravelo and Sgt. Pulgarin had been driving by at the time, and had stopped to see why \$87(2)(b) was shouting. \$87(2) did not explain to her how the struggle had begun.

#### **NYPD Statement(s)**:

### **Subject Officer: PO BRANDON RAVELO**

- PO Ravelo, [887(2)(6)] old at the time of the incident, is a 5'7", 200-pound Hispanic male with black hair and Brown eyes.
- On Mary 30, 2014, PO Ravelo worked from 11:50 a.m. until 8:05 p.m. He was assigned to Anti-Crime, and worked with Sgt. Joe Pulgarin. PO Ravelo was in plainclothes, and assigned to an unmarked black Impala, RMP #87(2)

#### Memo Book

At 1:00 p.m. on May 30, 2014, PO Ravelo encountered an EDP with a knife at the intersection of \$87(2)(b) . \$87(2)(b) (Encl. 7A-B).

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## **CCRB Testimony**

PO Ravelo was interviewed at the CCRB on August 5, 2014 (Encl. 7C-E). At approximately 1:00 p.m. on May 30, 2014, PO Ravelo and Sgt. Pulgarin were on patrol near \$87(2)(b) in the Bronx. PO Ravelo was driving. As he passed by, PO Ravelo noticed a young male, identified by the investigation as \$87(2)(b) shouting at an unidentified elderly male. The male was standing in front of the building, inside of a fence, while \$87(2)(b) was standing at the edge of the fence, about ten feet away. \$87(2)(b) was in turn approximately ten feet away from PO Ravelo's position. PO Ravelo did not recall what \$87(2)(b) was shouting, but he noted that \$87(2)(b) appeared extremely hostile and agitated. \$87(2)(b) gripped the fence and shook it repeatedly as he shouted.
PO Ravelo pulled his vehicle up next to \$\frac{8}{57(2)(b)}\$ and rolled down the windows. He verbally identified himself as a police officer, and then asked \$\frac{8}{57(2)(b)}\$ what was happening. \$\frac{8}{57(2)(b)}\$ turned towards PO Ravelo and stated, "I don't give a fuck. Get the fuck out of here. Don't get out of the fucking car." Based upon \$\frac{8}{57(2)(b)}\$ is immediate and extreme hostility towards him, PO Ravelo suspected that \$\frac{8}{57(2)(b)}\$ was emotionally disturbed at the time. He also suspected that \$\frac{8}{57(2)(b)}\$ might be under the influence of a controlled substance, specifically citing PCP, which often induces the sort of extreme hostility that \$\frac{8}{57(2)(b)}\$ was displaying at the time. PO Ravelo thus deemed it necessary to take \$\frac{8}{57(2)(b)}\$ into protective custody to ensure that he did not harm the male, the officers, or himself.
Both PO Ravelo and Sgt. Pulgarin exited the vehicle and approached \$87(2)(b)  S left, and Sgt. Pulgarin going to his right. As PO Ravelo approached, he noticed an orange handle poking out of one of \$87(2)(b)  S front pants pockets. PO Ravelo believed that the handle also had a clip extending out onto the pocket's exterior, but was not certain. While PO Ravelo did not describe the object's size, he believed, based upon its shape and color, that it was a box cutter. \$87(2)(b)  Stocket though, did not reach for the box cutter or attempt to use it at any point. As PO Ravelo and Sgt. Pulgarin approached \$87(2)(b)  S relative size and aggressive behavior, PO Ravelo drew his asp to defend himself if \$87(2)(b)  Stocket attacked him. He held the asp at his side, but did not attempt to strike \$87(2)(b)  With it. Sgt. Pulgarin did not draw his asp at any point during the incident.
Both officers instructed \$87(2)(b) to turn around and place his hands behind his back. \$87(2)(b) replied, "Fuck you, make me." He then crossed both of his arms across his chest, burying his hands in his armpits. PO Ravelo then put away his asp. He did not draw it again during the incident. PO Ravelo and Sgt. Pulgarin reached out and tried to pull \$87(2)(b) s arms on their respective sides behind his back. Once they made contact, however, \$87(2)(b) jerked his upper body away from them, breaking their grips.
With \$87(2)(b) now actively resisting the officers, PO Ravelo decided to take him to the ground to gain control of him. He wrapped \$87(2)(b) in a bear hug and then pulled him down to the ground. Both PO Ravelo and \$87(2)(b) fell to the ground, with both landing on their right sides adjacent to each other. PO Ravelo immediately scrambled on top of \$87(2)(b) \$87(2)(b) then grabbed PO Ravelo by the front of his collar and struck him twice in the face, once with his fist and once with his elbow. PO Ravelo responded by punching \$87(2)(b) several times. PO Ravelo did not recall where he struck \$87(2)(b) or how many times in total he struck \$87(2)(b)

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As PO Ravelo and \$37(2)(b) exchanged blows on the ground, Sgt. Pulgarin placed a call for backup over the radio. He then joined PO Ravelo in the struggle. Together, the two officers grabbed \$37(2)(b) s arms and pulled them behind his back. PO Ravelo did not strike \$37(2)(b) any further after that point. Sgt. Pulgarin did not strike \$37(2)(b) at any point. Neither officer struck \$37(2)(b) with their asps. Neither officer drew their pepper spray at any point. After approximately two minutes, PO Ravelo and Sgt. Pulgarin were able to get \$37(2)(b) s hands behind his back and place him in handcuffs. Both officers suffered minor scrapes to their knees during the struggle. PO Ravelo also suffered scrapes to one of his elbows. None of these injuries, however, were serious enough to require medical attention. PO Ravelo did not recall seeing any injuries on \$37(2)(b) when shown photographs of \$37(2)(b) showing scrapes on his arms and shoulders allegedly received during the incident, PO Ravelo stated that he did not recall seeing those injuries on \$37(2)(b) at the time.
Shortly after \$87(2)(b) was restrained, several responding officers arrived. PO Ravelo did not recall either the total number of responding officers, or the names of any specific officers. None of these officers made any physical contact with \$87(2)(b) at any point. As soon as \$87(2)(b) as pants pocket and removed the object he had seen earlier, confirming it to be a box cutter. PO Ravelo and Sgt. Pulgarin then lifted \$87(2)(b) to his feet and escorted him over to a nearby police vehicle. \$87(2)(b) continued shouting at the officers, and attempted to pull away from them.
While PO Ravelo waited for an ambulance to come and transport \$\frac{3}{27(2)(5)}\$ to a hospital for a psychiatric examination, he frisked \$\frac{3}{27(2)(5)}\$ to check him for weapons. He did this to ensure the safety of the EMTs who would be transporting \$\frac{3}{27(2)(5)}\$ PO Ravelo, standing behind \$\frac{3}{27(2)(5)}\$ patted him over his entire body, including his groin area. PO Ravelo was the only officer who frisked \$\frac{3}{27(2)(5)}\$ During the frisk, \$\frac{3}{27(2)(5)}\$ shouted, "Do you want to fuck me in the ass?" PO Ravelo did not respond to this. PO Ravelo did not thrust his hips behind \$\frac{3}{27(2)(5)}\$ in a sexually suggestive "humping" gesture. Neither PO Ravelo nor any of the other officers made any sort of suggestive gesture towards \$\frac{3}{27(2)(5)}\$ at any point. PO Ravelo did not find anything on \$\frac{3}{27(2)(5)}\$ during the frisk.
After he was frisked, \$87(2)(b) spat at PO Ravelo and the other officers around him. While PO Ravelo saw that \$87(2)(b) s saliva made contact with several officers, the saliva landed on their clothes, and did not make contact with their skin. A few minutes later, an ambulance arrived to transport \$87(2)(b) continued spitting as he was loaded into the ambulance, forcing the EMTs to cover his mouth with a mask. PO Ravelo rode with \$87(2)(b) in the ambulance to while Sgt. Pulgarin followed them in the unmarked car.
Once at the hospital, \$87(2)(b) was immediately transferred into the custody of the hospital police. PO Ravelo did not stay with \$87(2)(b) and had no extended interaction with him there. PO Ravelo denied telling \$87(2)(b) "If you make one move, you know what's coming down on you." He denied making any sort of threat towards \$87(2)(b) while at the hospital. After transferring \$87(2)(b) PO Ravelo had no further interactions with him.
After the incident, PO Ravelo prepared an AIDED report for \$87(2)(b) however, had refused to provide his name during the incident. As a result, PO Ravelo had to file it for an unidentified individual, rather than under \$87(2)(b) s actual name.

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#### Subject Officer: SGT. JOE PULGARIN

- Sgt. Pulgarin, §87(2)(b) old at the time of the incident, is a 5'10", 185-pound Hispanic male with black hair and brown eyes.
- On May 30, 2014, Sgt. Pulgarin worked the same tour and assignment as PO Brandon Ravelo.

#### Memo Book

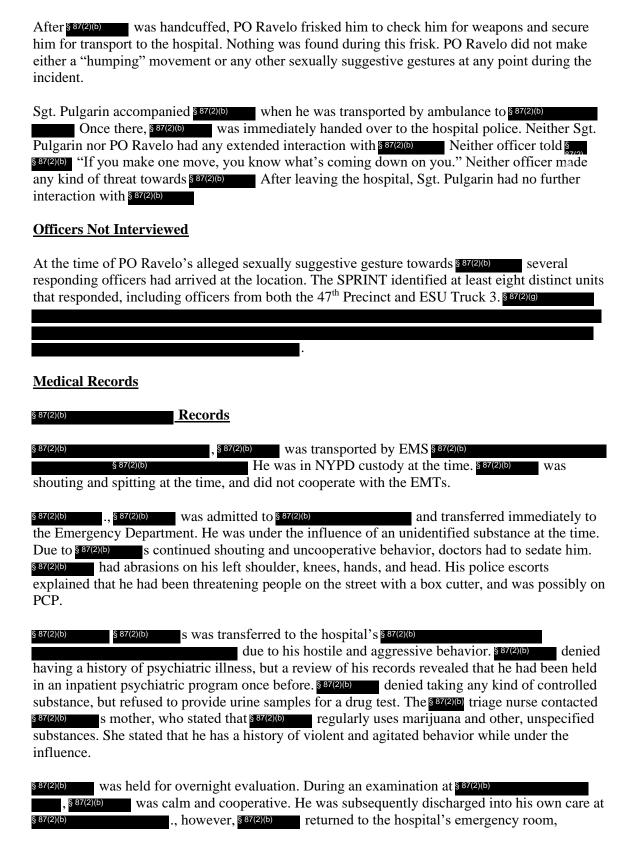
At 1:00 p.m. on May 30, 2014, Sgt. Pulgarin encountered a violent EDP at the intersection of (Encl. 8A-C). **CCRB Testimony** Sgt. Pulgarin was interviewed at the CCRB on August 5, 2014 (Encl. 8D-F) \$87(2)(9) Sgt. Pulgarin first noticed the object in § 87(2)(b) s pants before PO Ravelo pulled over. He described it as being eight inches long, and stated that it was clipped to the exterior of the pocket, in full view. He immediately identified the object as a box cutter. Sgt. Pulgarin did not recall what was shouting at the unidentified male, but stated that \$87(2)(b) had no shirt on at the time. When PO Ravelo pulled the car over, \$87(2)(6) turned towards the officers and told them to stay in their vehicle before either officer had a chance to identify themselves as police. After this threat, Sgt. Pulgarin held his shield up to \$87(2)(b) hoping that he would calm down to avoid antagonizing a police officer. §87(2)(b) however, told them again not to get out of their vehicle. Based upon \$87(2)(b) s extreme hostility, Sgt. Pulgarin suspected as well that \$37(2)(b) EDP, and resolved to take him into protective custody. Sgt. Pulgarin confirmed that PO Ravelo briefly drew his asp when the officers first approached but did not use it. He denied drawing or using his own asp at any point. Sgt. Pulgarin did not recall how [897(2)(b)] and PO Ravelo were arranged on the ground once PO Ravelo pulled both of them down. While Sgt. Pulgarin stated that \$87(2)(6) struck PO Ravelo twice in the face, he did not see PO Ravelo punch \( \) \( \) \( \) Neither officer punched or kicked \( \) \( \) \( \) Neither officer struck with asps. Beyond pulling \$87(2)(b) to the ground and bring his arms behind his back, neither Sgt. Pulgarin nor PO Ravelo used any additional force during the struggle. In addition to crossing his arms across his chest, shouting profanities and striking PO Ravelo, \$87(2)(b) also resisted during the struggle by spitting at both officers. \$87(2)(b) did not strike either officer with his saliva.

physical injuries. Both officers suffered minor scrapes to their knees, but neither sought medical

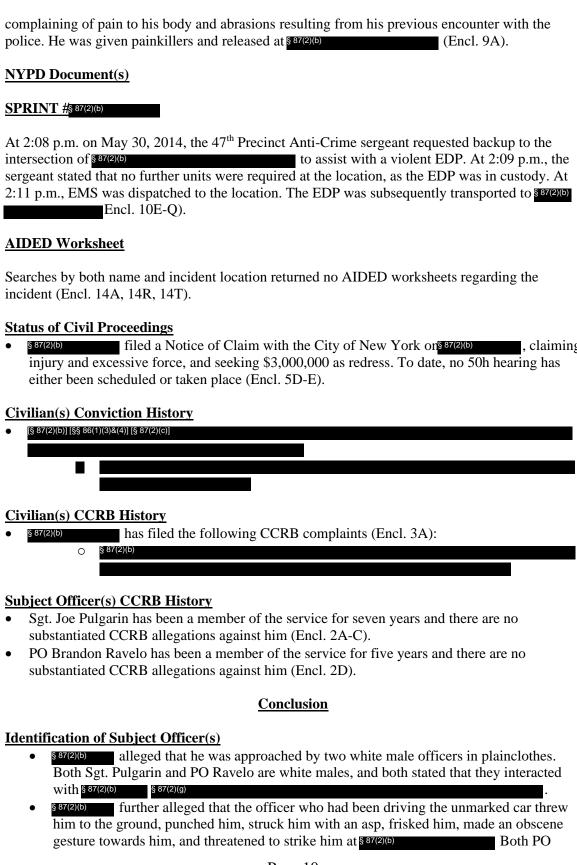
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Sgt. Pulgarin did not recall the identities of any of the responding officers. None of these officers made physical contact with \$87(2)(b) Sgt. Pulgarin did not recall \$87(2)(b) suffering any

attention.



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Ravelo and Sgt. Pulgarin stated that PO Ravel period, threw \$87(2)(b) to the ground, frisker Ravelo further stated that he punched \$87(2)(b)	d him, and escorted him to the hospital. PO
Allegations Not Pleaded	
§ 87(2)(g)	
<b>Investigative Findings and Recommendations</b>	
Allegation A: Abuse of Authority – At \$87(2)(b)	in the Bronx, Sgt. Joe Pulgarin
Stopped Sa7(2)(b)  Allegation B: Abuse of Authority – At Sa7(2)(b)  Ravelo stopped Sa7(2)(b)	in the Bronx, PO Brandon
It is undisputed that Sgt. Pulgarin and PO Ravelo stop	
the unidentified male in front of \$87(2)(b) they approached him. He denied possessing a box cutt	and denied threatening the officers when
Both Sgt. Pulgarin and PO Ravelo stated that \$87(2)(b) of the house. They also alleged that when they approaget out of their vehicle, even after they had identified officers observed an object in \$87(2)(b) s pocket that a box cutter, neither observed \$87(2)(b) reach for or \$87(2)(b) was handcuffed, the object was retrieved, confi	ched him, \$57(2)(0) ordered them not to themselves as police officers. While both t they believed at the time of approach to be wield the object at any point. After \$7(2)
	acting in a belligerent manner during his
NYPD Patrol Guide procedure 216-05 states that whe person who is apparently mentally ill or emotionally of to the safety of himself or others, that individual must F).	listurbed, and that the person poses a threat
§ 87(2)(g)	

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§ 87(2)(g)
•
Allegation C: Force – At § 87(2)(b) in the Bronx, PO Brandon Ravelo used physical force against § 87(2)(b)
alleged that once he was taken to the ground, PO Ravelo punched him several times on his upper body and head. He could not estimate how many times he was hit. While Sgt. Pulgarin and \$87(2)(b) denied seeing PO Ravelo strike \$87(2)(b) PO Ravelo himself stated that he struck \$87(2)(b) several times. He did not recall where or how many times he hit \$87(2)(b) Medical records indicate that \$87(2)(b) suffered several minor scrapes to his head and upper body as a result of this force.
denied offering any resistance to the officers. Sgt. Pulgarin and PO Ravelo stated that resisted them by pulling his arms away, holding his arms firmly against his chest, and striking PO Ravelo. \$87(2)(b) stated that he resisted by rolling his body away from the officers, and pulling his hands from them. She made no mention of \$87(2)(b) striking either of the officers.
NYPD Patrol Guide procedure 203-11 states that officers may use minimal force necessary in order to overcome resistance may be used to take a mentally ill or emotionally disturbed person into custody (Encl. 1G-H).
§ 87(2)(g)
§ 87(2)(g)
Allegation E: Discourtesy – At § 87(2)(b) in the Bronx, PO Brandon Ravelo acted discourteously towards § 87(2)(b)
alleged that immediately before he was frisked, PO Ravelo made a humiliating and sexually suggestive "humping" gesture behind him. PO Ravelo, Sgt. Pulgarin, and all denied that PO Ravelo made this or any other obscene gesture towards [587(2)(b)] at any point during the incident. [587(2)(b)]

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with § 87(2)(b) s med	lical records indicated t	they did not spend any time waiting hat he was transferred immediately	
the custody of the hospital's Emer	gency Department upo	n arrival. § 87(2)(g)	
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Team			
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